

# **PET TETHERING APPARATUS**

## **FIELD OF THE INVENTION**

The present invention relates to pet exercising devices and more specifically to an improved waist mountable tethering device that allows for the hand free exercising of multiple pets.

## **BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

The use of a leash, harness, or the like tethering device for the walking of a pet is well known. Typically such a device consists of a flexible line, or leash, having a proximal end which is held by an individual exercising the pet and a distal end that is coupled to the pet's collar. In the most basic form, the proximal end of the leash has a loop formed therein which operates as a handle to be held by the individual. Unfortunately, should the pet make any sudden movement the individual may not be grasping the handle formed on the leash well enough to control the pet from breaking free. This situation becomes problematic when the individual exercising a pet is near a distracting area, such as roads, where most pets are aware of the dangers associated with the moving objects. Further complicating the situation, should the individual be unfamiliar with the pet, such as when a guest is walking the family dog, if that individual is not accustomed to the particularities of the pet then any unexpected movement

1 may cause loss of the leash. For example, dogs are known to  
2 either run toward or run away from other animals. Similarly,  
3 some pets may run away from the sound of a car horn while other  
4 pets run toward the sound.

5 The above situations are further complicated when an  
6 individual is running with a pet, or is exercising multiple  
7 pets. The natural rhythm of a runner requires movement of both  
8 hands and the runner's concentration may not be focused on the  
9 holding of a leash. Multiple pets require special  
10 attentiveness for each pet has its own peculiarities.

11 A pet walker typically carries other items, such as a  
12 water bottle or treats, making it more difficult to control the  
13 pets. Professional dog walkers are most attuned to this  
14 situation as they are paid for their services and must walk  
15 upwards of ten dogs simultaneously to be cost effective.. For  
16 this reason, a number of waist and shoulder type leash patents  
17 have been directed to this situation.

18 U.S. Patent 5,080,045 discloses a pet leash that allows  
19 for hands free control. The device includes a belt that is  
20 adapted to encircle an individual's waist, a suspension ring  
21 flexibly securing the ring to the belt and a leash that can  
22 slide circumferentially with respect to the ring. This device  
23 allows movement of a pet around the waist of a jogger, but  
24 would cause stability problems to an individual that is walking

1 multiple dogs which may pull from different directions.

2 U.S. Patent 5,161,486 discloses another pet leash that  
3 allows for hands free control of a pet. This device employs a  
4 waistband with two attachment loops, and a quick release lead  
5 clasp allowing slidable movement of the leash. This device  
6 also allows for a single pet but results in problems control  
7 problems if multiple pets are harnessed.

8 U.S. Patent 5,038,719; 6,450,129; and D350,628 disclose  
9 pet leashes that hook to a waist belt. These devices includes  
10 a coupler that allows the leash to be shortened, or pressure  
11 removed from the waist by the use of a hand holdable loop.  
12 This device will not work with multiple pets.

13 U.S. Patent 6,439,168 discloses a hand held leash that  
14 harnesses two pets together, such a device cannot be used for  
15 multiple pets.

16 U.S. Patent 6,273,029 discloses a hand held leash that  
17 includes a rotatable ring to prevent entanglement of multiple  
18 pets. U.S. Patent Nos. 4,667,624, 4,932,362, 5,038,719,  
19 5,842,444; 5,718,189, and 6,192, 835 set forth additional waist  
20 and shoulder type leash patents.

21 Despite the prior art, there is a need for a tethering  
22 system that provides superior comfort to the wearer and control  
23 of the leashed pets by use of a two piece adjustable waist belt  
24 with pressure distribution and a means for quick pet leash

1     disengagement. The result is a device that allows hands free  
2     control of pets that accompany an individual for either  
3     companionship, motivation, exercise and/or for safety.

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1     SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

2           The instant invention is a waist mounted harness that  
3     allows hands free control of multiple leashed pets. The waist  
4     harness is constructed from two padded sections that are  
5     coupled together to encircle an individuals waist, a nylon  
6     support strap couples the sectioned together by the use of  
7     buckles. The two sections can be made of various sizes to  
8     accommodate an individual's waist. The belt includes multiple  
9     attachment rings, preferably constructed from nylon loops, for  
10    securement of additional harnesses. This quick release can be  
11    moved to accommodate various attachment areas with the various  
12    nylon loops, as well as miscellaneous items such as waste  
13    disposal bags. A bottle holder accommodates a water bottle for  
14    the pets and a side bag provides for placement of animal  
15    treats, car phone, keys, and so forth. A quick release latch  
16    is provided on the front of the waist belt allowing for the  
17    engagement/disengagement of attached leashes.

18           In the preferred embodiment, each leash has elasticity to  
19    lessen the burden on the wearer. Larger dogs have a tendency  
20    to run quickly and the use of the dynamic rope leash provides  
21    way to absorb shock. At the end of each leash is a quick  
22    release coupling that is spring loaded for securement to the  
23    collar of the pet.

24           Thus, an objective of the instant invention is to provide

1 an improved hands free pet lease based upon a two piece waist  
2 harness having a contour conforming shape that consists of a  
3 soft padded material and a supporting outer strap capable of  
4 distributing the pressure applied by multiple pets.

5 Another objective of the invention is to provide a two  
6 piece waist harness, a first section for placement around the  
7 back of an individual and a second section for placement in the  
8 front of an individual, the front piece is removable and  
9 changeable.

10 Another objective of the instant invention is to employ a  
11 nylon strap for reinforcing of waist harness and to distribute  
12 pressure applied to the leash connection.

13 Still another objective of the instant invention is to  
14 provide quick release clamps for pet leash attachments.

15 Still another objective of the instant invention is to  
16 employ dynamic rope leashes.

17 Yet another objective of the instant invention is to  
18 provide a waist harness wherein leashes and quick release snaps  
19 can be attached at various places around the perimeter of the  
20 harness.

21 Still another objective of the invention is to provide a  
22 waist mounted pouch for pet treats, cellular phones, car keys,  
23 and so forth.

24 Yet still another objective of the invention is to provide

1 a secured waist mounted water bottle holder.

2 Still another objective of the invention is to provide a  
3 light reflective material which is sewn onto the back side of  
4 the harness providing enhanced nighttime visibility.

5 Other objectives and advantages of this invention will  
6 become apparent from the following description taken in  
7 conjunction with the accompanying drawings wherein are set  
8 forth, by way of illustration and example, certain embodiments  
9 of this invention. The drawings constitute a part of this  
10 specification and include exemplary embodiments of the present  
11 invention and illustrate various objects and features thereof.

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1     BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

2             Figure 1 is a pictorial view of the instant invention  
3     tethering two dogs;

4             Figure 2 is a top view of the back and front portion that  
5     forms the waist harness; and

6             Figure 3 is the leashes for attachment from the waist  
7     harness to the pet collars.

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1     DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

2           Now referring to Figure 1 set forth is pictorial view of  
3     the instant invention setting forth a waist harness 10  
4     consisting of a back portion 12 and a front portion 14. The  
5     waist harness includes a padded section 16 to comfortably  
6     conform to an individual's body. The front portion 14 secured  
7     to the back portion 12 by use of a hook and loop attachment 18  
8     and 24 and secondary securement by a nylon strap 20. A  
9     rotatable quick release snap 22 is coupled to the front panel  
10    14 and at least one leash 24 is securable from the snap 22 to  
11    a pet collar 26.

12          Now referring to Figure 2 shown is the waist harness 10 in  
13    greater detail having back portion 12 just formed from an  
14    elongated padded strap having the first engagement end 18 and  
15    a second engagement end 19 with the padded center section 16  
16    formed there between. In the preferred embodiment the padded  
17    center section is approximately 25 inches long and 4 inches  
18    high. The first and second engagement ends 18 and 19 are  
19    preferably 2 inches high and include hook and loop attachment  
20    28 and 30 from engagement to reciprocal hook and loop  
21    attachment points 32 and 34 located on the front section 14.  
22    Nylon strap 20 is sewn onto the outer surface of the back  
23    portion 12 having a first end 36 extending beyond the first  
24    engagement end 18 of the back and a second end 38 which extends

1 beyond the second engagement end 19 of the back portion. The  
2 strap 20 includes a first attachment loop 40 which is created  
3 by attachment of the nylon strap in such a manner so as to  
4 cause formation of the loop by sewing the ends of the strap to  
5 the back portion with spacial attachment. Further attachment  
6 loops 40, 42, and 44 are included from alternative nylon  
7 webbing wherein a plastic sleeve can be placed over each loop  
8 to provide longevity to the nylon strap by operating as a  
9 protective sheathing. Further included on the back portion is  
10 a nylon pouch 50 which is secured to another surface of the  
11 back section and has a releasable securable flap 52 to allow  
12 items to be placed within the pouch without fear of loss. For  
13 instance, pet treats may be placed within the pouch or any  
14 other small items that may be necessary for care taking of the  
15 pets. A flexible strap 54 is further secured to an outer  
16 surface of the back section and allows for placement of a water  
17 bottle within the strap again to allow the persons hands remain  
18 free while tethering of the pets. The front panel 14 includes  
19 a first and second buckle 60 and 62 for use in engagement the  
20 first and second free ends of the strap 36 and 38. In  
21 operation the back portion is placed around the waist of an  
22 individual which encompasses approximately three quarters of  
23 the waist of an average sized person. The front portion 14 is  
24 then secured to the back portion by the use of the hook and

1 loop attachment points. Strap 38 is placed through buckle 62  
2 wherein the nylon strap 20 operates to withstand most of the  
3 stress placed upon the tethering device. Similarly, strap end  
4 36 is placed through buckle 60 so as to provide a padded  
5 circumference to the individuals waist which is lightly  
6 attached and held in place by the hook and loop attachment and  
7 further is secured by the nylon strap. It should be noted that  
8 once a back portion and front portion has been sized to an  
9 individual, one strap end such as 38 may remain engaged to  
10 buckle 62 wherein release of the harness would only require  
11 detachment of one free end of the strap 36 from buckle 60 and  
12 detachment of the appropriate hook and loop section. On the  
13 front portion 14, attachment 70 allows for securement of nylon  
14 strap 72 in a perpendicular fashion to permit coupling to  
15 swivel snap 74. The swivel snap allows for rotation of the  
16 snap and is preferably made out of metal but could also be made  
17 from plastic. The swivel snap allows for engagement of leashes  
18 80 and 82 preferably by attachment rings 84 and 86. The  
19 attachment rings allow multiple leashes to be placed on the  
20 snap 74 and can be further coupled by use of a coupling ring 90  
21 wherein numerous pets could be placed on a single snap 74. In  
22 the preferred embodiment the leashes 80 and 82 are formed from  
23 a dynamic circular rope which allows further absorption of  
24 shock when larger pets move quickly. The end of each leash 94

1 and 96 are conventional snaps for attachment to the pet collar.

2 The waist harness permits a quick release snap to be  
3 positioned on either the left or right side of the waist  
4 harness, or on both sides. In this manner, the harness is  
5 configured to accommodate a dog running directly along the side  
6 of the individual, wherein the tether does not interfere with  
7 the leg movement of the individual. To lessen the length of  
8 a tether leash, the carabineer is attached to the dog leash and  
9 to the snap hook to form a leash  $\frac{1}{2}$  the size. The leash itself  
10 is hooked through the quick release snap and the dog is hooked  
11 to the other end by normal snap hook, ensuring the dog stays  
12 directly at the side of the running individual.

13 It is to be understood that while I have illustrated and  
14 described certain forms of my invention, it is not to be  
15 limited to the specific forms or arrangement of parts herein  
16 described and shown. It will be apparent to those skilled in  
17 the art that various changes may be made without departing from  
18 the scope of the invention and the invention is not to be  
19 considered limited to what is shown in the drawings and  
20 described in the specification.

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